

CIA director briefs Carter 5 hours, apparently discusses his future

By JIM MANN

Washington Bureau of The Sun

Plains, Ga.—George Bush, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, met with President-elect Carter for more than five hours yesterday to talk about current intelligence matters and also, apparently, his own future as the CIA director.

Upon his arrival here by military helicopter, Mr. Bush said he did not plan on discussing with Mr. Carter the question of whether he would remain the head of the intelligence agency.

After the meeting ended, however, Mr. Bush refused several times to say whether he had talked about his future with Mr. Carter. "I'm not going to discuss whether we discussed it," he said when pressed by reporters.

Although several other intelligence officials came to Plains with Mr. Bush, the CIA director said that at one point yesterday

he had "a private meeting" with Mr. Carter and Vice President-elect Mondale.

Directors of the CIA serve at the pleasure of the President. Mr. Bush is a former Republican congressman who was at one point the Republican party chairman.

The CIA director said that at President Ford's request, he briefed Mr. Carter on "highly sensitive matters," including some information not provided to Mr. Carter during the campaign about "the ways we gather intelligence."

Mr. Bush had strong words of praise for the President-elect. "He's obviously very well-briefed, so his questions are right on target, and they're very perceptive . . .," the CIA director said. "He's clearly done an awful lot of reading and briefing over the last few months since I've seen him."

There was a minor furor the last time

Mr. Bush came to Plains to brief Mr. Carter. Shortly before Mr. Bush arrived, the Carter staff included him on a list of members of the Ford administration who Mr. Carter considered to be political cronies of Mr. Ford.

Mr. Carter quickly disavowed the statement, which he blamed on his staff and said he had never seen.

The briefing by Mr. Bush and several other intelligence officials was the first in a series of meetings the President-elect will have within the next few days with leading members of the Ford administration.

He is scheduled to meet here today with Henry A. Kissinger, the Secretary of State, and in Washington Monday with Mr. Ford.

In addition, the Carter staff announced yesterday that while Mr. Carter is in Washington Monday, he also will meet with three other members of Mr. Ford's Cabinet.

The members are William E. Simon, the Treasury Secretary; David Mathews, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare; and Donald H. Rumsfeld, the Secretary of Defense. Another session is scheduled between Mr. Carter and James T. Lynn, the director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Tuesday, the President-elect will spend a full day on Capitol Hill, Mr. Carter's press spokesman, Jody Powell, said yesterday.